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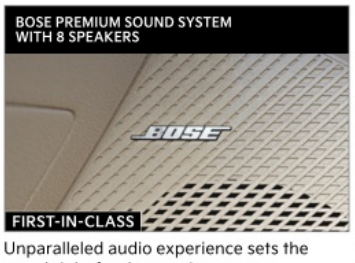

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INNOCEAN-001/22

Grenade attack
Terrorists hurled a grenade at a police patrolling party on Sunday at the Saraf Kadal area of Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar that left a police official and a civilian injured

BangaloreMirror
Monday, January 17, 2022
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An eye on country's R-value as it dips

R value recorded at 2.2 between January 7 and 13

#NEW DELHI

India's 'R-value', which indicates how rapidly covid-19 is spreading, was recorded at 2.2 between January 7 and 13, a drop from the previous two weeks, according to a preliminary analysis by IIT Madras.

The R value of Mumbai was 1.3, Delhi 2.5, Chennai 2.4 and Kolkata 1.6, according to the analysis by IIT Madras' Department of Mathematics and Centre of Excellence for Computational Mathematics and Data Science headed by Prof Neelesh S Upadhye and Prof S Sundar.

It was close to 2.9 nationally from December 25 to December 31 while it was 4 between January 1 and 6.

The R value marks the number of people an infected person can spread the disease to. A pandemic is considered to end if this value goes below 1.

Dr Jayant Jha, an assistant professor in the department of mathematics at IIT Madras, said the R value depends on transmissibility probability, contact rate and expected time interval in which infection can happen.

India added 2,71,202 new coronavirus infections to the Covid case tally that reached 3,71,22,164 on Sunday, including 7,743 cases of the Omicron variant.

The country saw 1,702 new cases of Omicron variant, the highest in a day so far, and an increase of 28.17 per cent since Saturday.

Experts said it is not possible to undertake genome sequencing of each and every sample, but stressed that this wave is largely being driven by Omicron. **-PTI**

An artist paints a mural based on Covid-19 coronavirus safety protocols on the walls of an underpass during a weekend curfew in New Delhi

Djokovic departs Oz on eve of year's 1st Grand Slam

#MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic's Australian sojourn for the year's first Grand Slam came to a disappointing end on Sunday with the government deporting the Serbian World No. 1 after a Federal court panel dismissed his appeal against the cancellation of his visa.

Djokovic boarded a plane to Dubai, on way to Serbia, on the eve of the Australian Open, in which the top seed was hoping to win his 21st Grand Slam title, breaking the tie with archrivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Australia's Federal Court on Sunday dismissed the world No. 1's application to have his visa cancellation overturned one day before the start of the Australian Open, in which Djokovic had been expected to defend his title.

Three Federal Court judges upheld a decision made on Friday by the immigration minister to cancel the 34-year-old Serb's visa on public interest grounds.

Djokovic was initially given a medical exemption by the Victorian state and Melbourne authorities for competing in the Australian Open after he declared that he had Covid-19 in December last year. But the Federal authorities cancelled the medical exemption and the visa.

SPORT

The star players' lawyers had then appeared before a single-judge bench, which had reinstated the ace player's visa. But the Immigration Minister Alex Hawke on January 14 used his discretionary powers to cancel the visa given to Djokovic because it was in the public interest to do so because of players' Covid-19 vaccination stance.

As a last recourse, Djokovic again appealed his deportation from Australia before a three-member Federal judge panel, which upheld the Immigration Minister's January 14 order. A report on sen.com.au said on Sunday, "The hearing took four hours, with the government claiming the 34-year-old's presence in Australia would excite anti-vaccination sentiments, while Djokovic's lawyers argued that the 20-time grand slam champion was no risk to public order. "Chief Justice James Allsop and the court came to the decision at 5:45 pm (Aus time) in a unanimous verdict, while written reasons will be given at a later date," said the report.

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic walks in Melbourne Airport before boarding a flight

After the court's decision, the nine-time Australian Open men's singles title winner in a statement said he was disappointed with the ruling but he respects it and will cooperate with the relevant authorities in relation to his departure from the country.

"I would like to make a brief statement to address the outcomes of today's court hearing. I will now be taking some time to rest and to recuperate, before making any further comments beyond this. I am extremely disappointed with the ruling to dismiss my application for judicial review of the minister's decision to cancel my visa, which means I cannot stay in Australia and participate in the Australian Open," Djokovic was quoted as saying.

"I respect the court's ruling and I'll cooperate with the relevant authorities in relation to my departure from the country," he added.

Everybody wants a piece of Tesla

#MUMBAI

Maharashtra Minister Jayant Patil on Sunday invited Elon Musk, the CEO of US-based electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla, to set up a production unit in the state, assuring him of all necessary help.

After Musk tweeted about "challenges with the government" in connection with his firm's plans to launch its products in India, Patil responded on the micro-blogging site and said,"Maharashtra is one of the most progressive states in India. We will provide you all the necessary help from Maharashtra for you to get established in India. We invite you to establish your manufacturing plant in Maharashtra." Patil's offer comes two days after Telangana minister K T Rama Rao invited Musk to set up shop in his state.

Meanwhile, in the run-up to the state assembly polls, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday invited Musk to set up Tesla's unit in state's industrial hub Ludhiana.

West Bengal also on Sunday made a pitch for a piece of the electric vehicle revolution as one of its ministers sent an invite to Tesla founder and CEO to "drop here" and set up his business in the state.

PM to deliver 'State of the World' address at WEF's Davos Agenda

#NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda on Monday, said Prime Minister's Office on Sunday.

PM Modi will address the WEF at 8:30 PM IST via video conference on Tuesday, the office said in a press release. The virtual event will be held from January 17-21. Several heads of state will address the event including Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and EU Commission's chief Ursua von der Leyen.

The event will also witness the participation of top industry leaders, international organisations and civil society, who will deliberate on critical challenges being faced by the world today and discuss how to address them. **-ANI**

5-km-long tunnelling work over at Zoji la

#ZOJI LA

There was forward movement in the construction of Zoji la (pass) tunnel as 5-km-long tunnelling work has been completed out of the 18-km-long all-weather tunnels in the last 14 months. The project of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) is being executed by Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL). Once completed, this tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh. The Zoji la Tunnels -- Nilgrar 1, 2 and Zoji la main tunnel – are being expeditiously executed, despite unfavourable weather conditions like snowfall, and blizzard at a high altitude of 3,528 meters above mean sea level. Zoji la project, Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel, is a challenging development project in India for strategic reasons too.

Harpal Singh, Project Head, Zoji la Tunnel, said, "We have executed this project in toughest conditions with dedication and hard work." The current winter witnessed the highest-ever snowfall in the history of Jammu and Kashmir with temperatures dropping to -30 degrees Celsius (minus 30 degrees). The project consists of three tunnels, four bridges, snow protection structures, culverts, catch dam, deflector dam, cut & cover tunnel, and many such engineering feats.

This tunnel is part of the Zoji la project for ensuring all-weather connectivity between Kashmir valley to Ladakh. The total length of the project is 32 kilometres and is divided into two parts. The part one of the project's 18 km connects Sonamarg and Taltal. The tunnel T1 has two tubes planned in it. The project work began on May 2021, after the construction of access roads. Works at Zoji la Main Tunnel, which is 13.3-km-long, are also in full swing. The completion of the project (September 2026) is on track.

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As BBMP records lowest first dose vaccine coverage in state, Bengaluru Urban posts highest vaccine reach at 136.5% among districts

NO SHOT CUTS

Palike clocks 96.2% first, 78.8% second dose coverage

Iffath Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Covid-19 cases are on the rise — in an Omicron variant-led purported third wave of the pandemic — in India and Bengaluru city limits.

Time and again experts have emphasised the importance of getting vaccinated and higher coverage of vaccinations in all the districts. At the moment, all districts have 100% plus coverage of the first dose.

In fact, Sunday marked a year since the vaccine roll out. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), though, has been lagging behind in terms of its first dose coverage and has so far reached 96.2% of the population.

Last year, health minister Dr K Sudhakar, in the month of August, had announced that the state will vaccinate the entire eligible population by the end of December. However, that wasn't done: reasons were sighted such as hesitancy amongst people, long duration between Covishield first dose and second, and at times, government running out of vaccine stocks.

However, the state managed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6»

"We have touched 98% first doses. We are going door to door, carrying out vaccination for those who were left out

—Dr Thrilok Chandra, BBMP special commissioner (health)

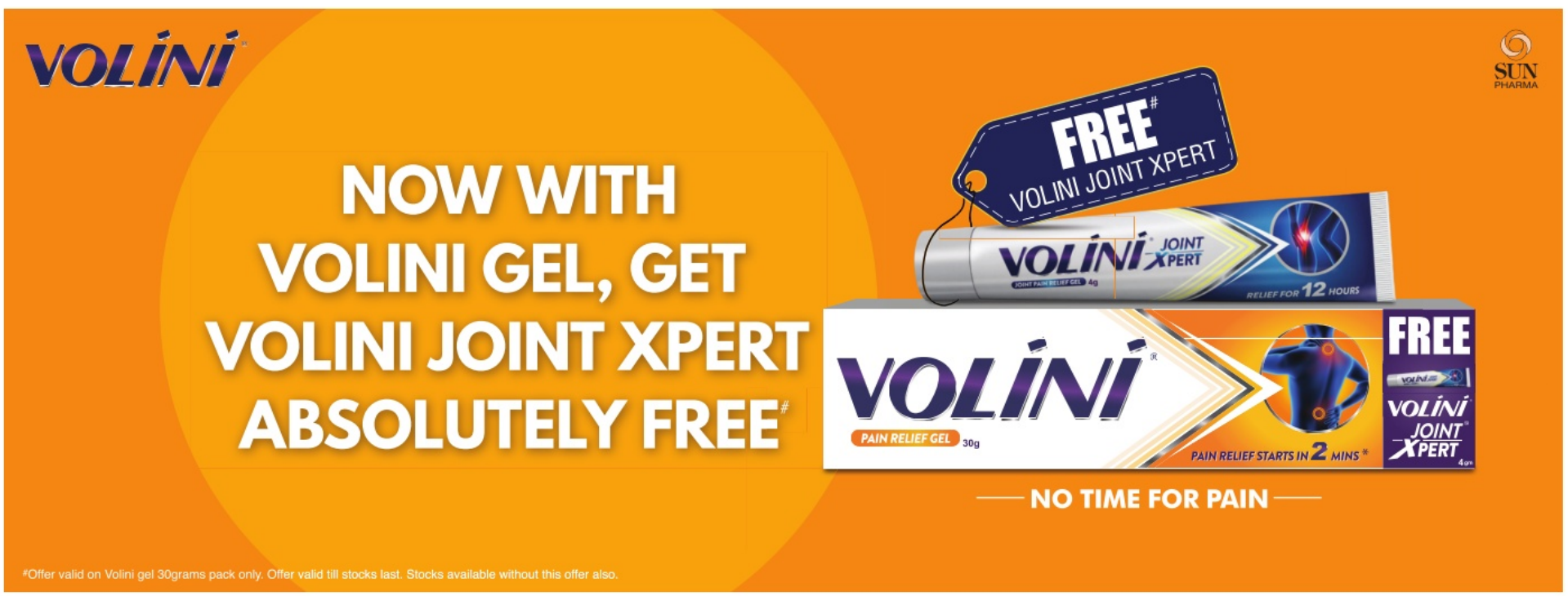
CITY / PAGE 3

A fine ploy

Motorists allege traffic cops used weekend curfew checks to make many of them clear pending fines

CITY / PAGE 4

Wool trade goes online



3 THINGS TO DO

01 Bohemian canvas art

Amp up the walls in your home with bohemian canvas paintings or pages of your sketchbook with bohemian vibes by signing up for this online workshop. Create a set of five unique boho-style artworks inspired by the women of India & their beauty. This workshop will focus on making boho colour tones work with outline drawings & teach you how to frame your artworks. **Where: Online;**
When: Jan 22 – Jan 26, 2pm onwards
Tickets: Rs 1499, allevents.in

02 Improve your improv

Improv is an essential skill to have when pursuing acting. The sessions will take you through a gamut of emotions and a range of situations which will require your dramatic response. No prior theatre experience is required.
Where: Zoom;
When: January 22nd onwards (10 sessions), Saturdays, 5 pm – 6.30 pm
Register: Rs 5,000, bangalorelittletheatre.org/improv/
Last Date for registration is Jan 19.

03 Go watch a play

Catch Chaduranga Mattu Kaththe (The Chess and The Donkey), a psycho-analytical dark drama. Human beings often hide their inner instincts and seldom express what they truly experience. What happens when you express your authentic self not fall into norms the society has created? The plays throws light on the clashes that happen between you, your feelings and norms of society. This play throws light upon the conflicts each of us experience.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar Phase 2
When: Jan 19, 7:30pm
Tickets: Rs 150, bookmyshow.com

Engineering students clamour for e-classes

Around 23 students at engineering college test positive; hostel turns into containment zone

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Around 39 students at an engineering college in Bannerghatta have tested positive for the virus, raising demands that classes be shifted online. Over 23 students on Saturday from the girls' and boys' hostel of the AMC engineering college tested positive for Covid-19 and on Sunday, test results of 16 more students turned out to be positive. Many of them have been sent to Covid Care Centres while some remain in the hostel for isolation.

A health official pointed out that two of the final-year students who were staying at the hostel developed cold, cough and fever after which, tests were performed and majority of their contacts were found to be positive. "The students have not had any travel history. Initially, a few students developed symptoms and when they and their contacts were tested, most were positive. We have sent 80 more samples for testing and their results are awaited," said a health officer in Anekal taluk. Both the hostels were made into containment zones and the students are asked to isolate themselves.

A health worker collects swab sample of a passenger for Covid-19 test at K R Market, during the weekend curfew

"Initially, a few students developed symptoms and when they and their contacts were tested, most were positive. We have sent 80 more samples for testing
– A health officer

This has led to students panicking being called to attend college and now demand online classes to be continued. "Apart from the covid-positive cases detected in college, many other students around are as well seen with symptoms, it could be flu or covid we don't know but there is definitely a scare. Even I developed cold, cough two days back and came back to my home town in Kolar district.

We still have offline classes going on. Though our college has not been forceful in asking us to attend classes, but we don't have a choice of online classes as well. For the ones who have to attend labs they have to go to college physically. Until the situation is better, online classes need to be continued," said a final-year engineering student from AMC College of Engineering.

A parent of a computer engineering student from Bangalore Institute of Technology pointed out that VTU-affiliated colleges are continuing to conduct online classes in spite of multiple requests by students. "There are no adequate precautions taken in college. Why are they putting students unnecessarily at risk? The internal exams are supposed to started on January 19; our request is that it should be postponed. Many of the students are not yet vaccinated with two doses."

Anvith Kateel, State General Secretary, National Students Union of India (NSUI), in-charge VTU University said, "Most of the colleges across many districts are having cases of students testing positive.

Many engineering students who are studying in their 5th and 7th semester have internals two weeks from now which they will have to attend, this will put many students at risk as the virus is fast spreading. There are 20 positive cases detected even in the East point engineering college. Online classes should be resumed again. The government is playing with the life of students."

CBSE gears up to conduct boards

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The CBSE Board and the Union Ministry of Education are all set to conduct Term 2 of the 10th and 12th board examinations, scheduled to be conducted in March-April. The chances of the second term of the board examination getting cancelled this year are very slim, as health experts had earlier mentioned that the third wave was under control. However, students who decide to skip the exams will be graded on the basis of their first term's test results. The duration of the second phase of exams will be of two hours and the questions will be subjective.

Dr Joseph Emmanuel, Academic Director of CBSE said: "The sample question papers and the marking schemes for Term 2 examinations of Class 10 and 12 have been released on the website and the schools affiliated to CBSE Board have been alerted too."

Sanyam Bhardwaj, CBSE's controller of examinations, added that if the situation worsens, only then, the second term of examinations will be cancelled. "Marks obtained in the first phase will be considered final and based on them, results will be calculated. But if such a situation does not arise and the second term is held successfully, the final result will be decided on the basis of 50-50 per cent marks of these two terms."

Both the Union Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health are paying special attention to the vaccination of students between 15-18 age group so that they can appear for the board exams safely.

A school principal said: "The preparation for the exam and Covid has made children used to the hybrid mode of learning. The new method of evaluation will help us move beyond the traditional notions of assessment. Schools must keep up with the situation and ensure that students are well prepared for preboard and board exams."

He added: "Offline classes are being planned for these children after immunisation of the 15-18 years age group is complete. Vaccination camps within the school premises will help the children feel at home. It is important to observe the students for a few days after vaccination as their health is our top priority." The Ministry of Education said that the CBSE Board exams will be held while strictly adhering to all Covid protocols. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is soon going to do a show called 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' for which students, teachers and parents are being encouraged to register.

According to the Ministry, the format of this programme has been proposed to be kept online like last year. An online creative writing competition on various topics is being organised from December 28 to January 20 to select the participants. The questions asked by the selected winners will be included in the programme. ***(With inputs from agencies)***

Fine ploy on the silent streets

Motorists allege traffic cops flagged them down during weekend curfew checks and made some clear pending fines

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KAUSHIK JN

Traffic police were flagging down vehicles to check why the motorists were out on the road during Saturday and Sunday's curfew period

Weekend curfew has been nothing but harassment by traffic cops to collect pending fines, say motorists. They said that traffic police are seen in most of the junctions and check posts where they were asking motorists to clear pending fines.

Rakesh (name changed), a resident of RT Nagar, said that he had stepped out on his two wheeler to get medicines for his grandmother last Sunday when the traffic police stopped him and addressed him in a rude tone. "They asked me to park my vehicle on the roadside and asked me to produce all the documents and questioned me for stepping out during curfew. I showed them the doctor's prescription and informed them that I had to get the medicines," he said. Rakesh said the constable took his licence and walked away asking him to speak to his senior officer. "I had pending fines of Rs. 1,500 and they asked me to pay that and then leave. They were very rude to me. I requested them saying I didn't have cash at the time and I would pay next time but they didn't allow me to leave and took Rs. 500 without giving me a chalan," he said.

Prasanna, a resident of JP Nagar said that on Saturday afternoon he was on his way to the Railway station in his car when he was stopped by the traffic police near Lal Bagh. He said, "I was on my way to pick up my wife and daughter from the railway station when the traffic police stopped me and asked me for the ticket details. I showed them the train tickets and informed them that I was in a hurry as only half an hour was left for them to arrive. The traffic police started to check the pending fines and I had about three old ones which I had not checked." He said that though he told them that he would pay online they informed him that online mode had been disabled and he had to pay on the spot. "I had not carried my wallet as I had left in a hurry and they threatened to seize the vehicle if I didn't clear the pending fines. I cleared the fines through online payment and left."

> **"We don't check pending fines for those who are on their way to hospital or in an emergency. We have been checking this for a long time now**
>
> –A traffic police officer

A senior traffic police said they have been carrying out their regular duty and along with curfew and covid norms, they were also checking pending fines as instructed by the department. He said, "We mostly catch those out there just on joy rides and ask them to pay fines so that they stop stepping out unnecessarily at least due to the fear of us checking. We don't check pending fines for those who are on their way to hospital or in emergency. We have been checking pending fines for a long time now and nothing has changed during the curfew."

32 cops deployed at padayatra test positive

Thirty-two police personnel of Kolar and KGF, who was on duty at the Congress' Mekedatu padayatra have tested Covid-19 positive, the Kolar police confirmed on Sunday.

As per police information, COVID-19 infection has been confirmed in a total of 32 policemen who had been deployed for the Congress march for the Mekedatu project.

Out of the 111 policemen deployed by the KGF (Kolar Gold Fields) at Mekedatu padayatra, 25 have been tested positive while many others have shown some mild symptoms and are waiting for their COVID-19 test reports.

Out of the total 49 police personnel who had moved from the Kolar district, seven tested positive. This has also raised fears among the families of the policemen deployed in Mekedatu Bandobast.

In the wake of the High Court's observation and suggestion, Congress postponed the march. After five days, the Congress' Mekedatu padayatra was postponed in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases. The Karnataka Congress on Thursday temporarily called off the Mekedatu padayatra. **–ANI**

We respect Medha Patkar's stand on Mekedatu project: Shivakumar

Reacting to the opposition raised by activist-environmentalist Medha Patkar against the Mekedatu project, Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar stated on Saturday that the party respects Medha Patkar for the person she is as she fights for the things she believes in strongly.

On Friday, Medha Patkar had suggested that it is not too late to scrap the Mekedatu drinking water project to safeguard the biodiversity of the region and also the Cauvery water.

Karnataka wants to build Mekedatu balancing reservoir to provide drinking water to Bengaluru city and surrounding areas. However, Tamil Nadu is opposing the project and has moved the Supreme Court against it.

"The Mekedatu struggle is a reflection of the aspiration of the people. It is a struggle for existence. Water is life for us. Everyone has the freedom to express their opinions," Shivakumar said.

Wait some more for Ola's S1 e-scooter

The wait for S1, Ola's entry level electric scooter which has a starting price of Rs 1 lakh just got longer. In a communication on Friday to customers waiting for its scooters, Ola said it was prioritising production of the top variant S1 pro, which costs Rs 1.3 lakh and would not be producing the S1 till late 2022.

The final purchase window--the second in the unusual and rather convoluted process, is open only for those who paid Rs 20,000 in a two day purchase window in mid September. In this window, they are expected to make the payment for the residual amount but the only scooters on offer are S1 Pro. As such, Ola is offering the customers a chance to upgrade to the more expensive version or wait for another 10-12 months--some of whom may have made the initial Rs 499 payment in July 2021.

"A vast majority of our customers have chosen the S1 Pro so we're prioritizing its production and will now be making the S1 variant only in late 2022," Ola said in the email to the customers. "There isn't a better time to go Pro as we're opening the final payment window on the Ola app on January 21 at 6pm. If you still wish to buy our S1 variant, we will notify you as soon as we put that into production and you can make the final payment then." Ola Electric co-founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal later tweeted that customers would have the option to upgrade to a scooter which would have the hardware of an S1 pro but lack the air software updates. As such, the scooter will operate like S1 but it would give the option for consumers to unlock features that would upgrade it to S1 pro at any point in time in future by paying the balance Rs 30,000. The company did not specify the reason for the delay in production of the S1 but admitted that it has not produced it even for the purpose of test rides. As such, customers do not have the option to experience the variant before they make the final payment. This is not the first time that Ola has missed its own deadlines either. **—ET Auto**

Repeated cases against Azim Premji: 2 jailed

The Karnataka High Court has convicted two representatives of India Awake for Transparency Limited for filing repeated cases against IT major Wipro Limited and its founder and chairman Azim Premji. Wipro Chairman Azim Premji, Wipro Limited and Hasham Investment and Trading Company Limited had filed a petition seeking action under criminal contempt against the Chennai based 'shell' company and its representatives.

The court has convicted R. Subramanian and P. Sadanand, under Contempts of Court Act. Subramanian appeared as counsel and Sadanand claimed to be a volunteer. The court sentenced both to simple imprisonment of two months and fined Rs 2,000 each.

The bench observed that petitioners filed repeated cases in the name of company which is non-existent. They had given the name as 'India Awake for Transparency' and did not give full name by hiding 'private limited' words.

The court opined that it is brazen attempt to conceal the fact and impersonation to mislead the court. **—IANS**

Wool trade goes online

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Corporation Limited develops first digital marketing mobile app for sellers and consumers; the app aims at cutting out middlemen

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You can now directly sign up on the app with required KYC documents

The Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation limited (KSWDCL) has developed the first digital marketing mobile app in the country for the use of sheep and wool trade which will help the sellers trade directly through the app.

The app was created in collaboration with National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) functioning under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, which will make available the Digital Platform customized for sale of sheep and goat by farmers. The app aims at cutting out the middlemen usually involved in the trade.

Dr P Srinivas, Managing Director of KSWDCL said: "The digital platform helps and encourages farmers for breeding the sheep commercially. It enables the farmers and consumers to get scientifically measured prices (price based on live weight), competitive price from a wider market participants and immediate payment through online mode."

Srinivas added, "The Corporation will be able to get total statistics on price discovered, number of sheep/goats traded periodically. They can track the number of farmers and consumers for the particular breed."

In order to register on the app, the farmers and buyers should register with the necessary KYC documents. Dr Srinivas also pointed out that trading will be based on delivery at society-designated locations.

"Each society will designate one or more delivery locations with fixed days of the week for delivery. Sellers shall directly or with the help of society staff, offer animals for sale in bilateral negotiated process and upload the offers along with animal details. The offers shall be for specific delivery locations. The societies shall arrange for weighing and transportation facilities and record arrivals at chosen delivery locations. Buyers will bear the cost of transportation and all collections and payments shall be fully online and remitted to sellers account directly," he explained.

The digital platform will have separate sections for sellers and buyers, where they can see the offers generated and all the trade offers will be visible to everyone. The application also has facility of chats for traders which is both one to many and one to one according to their requirements.

"This will benefit the farmers in a large way, as they can easily get buyers on the platform and the payments can be done immediately through online transaction. This is the first of its kind platform where buyers and sellers can have trading done online," Dr Srinivas added.

> **It enables farmers and consumers to get scientifically measured prices (price based on live weight), competitive price from a wider market participants and immediate payment through online mode**
>
> –Dr P Srinivas, Managing Director of KSWDCL

The app, in a nutshell

- The digital platform will have separate sections for sellers and buyers, where they can see the offers generated and all the trade offers will be visible to everyone.
- The application also has facility of chats for traders which is both one to many and one to one according to their requirements.
- The Corporation will be able to get total statistics on price discovered, number of sheep/goats traded periodically.

Rs 50-lakh boost each for 200 startups

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Narayan spoke on the occasion of the first National Startup Day (file)

To promote technological innovation in the state, 200 startups will be provided with seed funding of up to Rs 50 lakh each in the current year, Dr C N Ashwath Narayana, Minister for IT/BT and Skill Development, said on Sunday.

Addressing the occasion of the first 'National Startup Day' event observed at Vidhana Soudha, Narayana said that this being the year of Azad Ki Amrut Mahotsav (75th year of independence) the seed funding will be facilitated to an additional 75 startups to achieve the tally to 200 startups in the year.

Currently, the state has so far attracted Rs 1.6 lakh crore in foreign direct investment which is more than 50 per cent of the investment made in the entire country. The state is home to over 13,000 startups out of the total 57,000 in the country. Digital education and skill development will be focussed through effective implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), he explained.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the role of startups will be crucial in India becoming a superpower. The growth of hardware will also be facilitated together with software in the state. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Translational Park set up at IISc stands as a testimony to the commitment towards the growth of emerging industries, he added.

Under ESDM policy, Rs 5,000 crore will be given as subsidy, and out of this, Rs 2,000 crore has already been given in the first year, Narayana added.

> **Currently, the state has attracted Rs 1.6 lakh crore in FDI which is more than 50% of investments in the entire country**
>
> –Ashwath Narayan, IT/BT Minister

14 startups awarded

The Union government has observed the 'Startup India Innovation Week' from January 10 - January 16 and has announced national rewards for the startups for their innovative product development. Out of the 56 startups awarded, 14 from the state have bagged awards to put the state on top in the country.

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Give us basic facilities

Sanjeevini Nagar

A BM reader said: "There are hardly any basic facilities in Sanjeevini Nagar and Amruthahalli. Hope Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) listens to us and does something."

Illegal flexes

Babusapalya

Despite much being written about illegal flex boards, they continue to reemerge. At Babusapalya Bus Stop next to Kalyan Nagar, there are large and prominent flex boards.

Save our pavements

Sultan Palya

At Sultan Palya, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, too many shops are occupying the footpath, and the pavement can be barely used by pedestrians. There is no maintenance of the pavement too.

Confusion prevails over HSRP number plate rule

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There are complaints from the public about the police stopping vehicles and collecting fines for vehicles that do not have High-Security Number Plates (HSRP). But the Transport Department confirmed that it is not mandatory to have HSRP for old vehicles. "If HSRP number plates are not mandatory for old vehicle, why are traffic police stopping the vehicles. My vehicle was stopped in two places and I have paid Rs 500 as a penalty," a commuter Arun said.

Another rider said he was made to pay a penalty for not having an HSRP number plate. "When I asked them where these number plates were available, there was no answer. When I asked the RTO officials, they said there is no rule to distribute HSRP registration number plates. There is no information about this online either. There is no information for the public on the availability of HSRP number plates. So how can police collect fines," he asked.

Additional Commissioner of Road Transport Department L Narendra Holkar told Bangalore Mirror it is mandatory to have HSRP number plates for vehicles registered after April 1, 2019. "We will issue a notification on this soon. Until then, it is not mandatory for old vehicles to have HSRP number plates. Officials are in the process of inviting tender for providing HSRP number plates. We have conducted one round of meeting with the agencies," he said.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already mandated HSRP and colour-coded number plates to the vehicles. But in Karnataka implementation is delayed. It is very difficult to change and damage the HSRP number plates so they can prove useful in identifying stolen vehicles, officials say.

What is special?

HSRP number plates are not like any other number plates. It has many features along with jolograms. It has a circular blue Hologram. Below that there is a 10 figure unique number. On the numbers, the name of the country is mentioned.

4 lakh cases

In the year 2020, there were 2.5 lakh cases registered in the city about faulty number plates. "In 2021, it rose to 4.1 lakh on November 1, 2021. It is very difficult to identify the number plates with different sizes of fonts. After the order from the High Court of Karnataka, we have intensified the penalising of vehicles with faulted number plates," a traffic police official said.

No signal and the battery is gone too

Thieves struck at 2 junctions when traffic signals were not operational for some days due to civic work

Work on a grade separator has been going on at the Shivananda Circle so the signals were not in use for a while

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Batteries of two traffic signals in High Grounds traffic police station limits were stolen this year back to back even as the cops were busy with ongoing civic works in the area and the traffic signals were not operational due to the work.

With the pandemic affecting everyone financially, the police say that thieves have started to steal any thing that is available unattended to outside. Head Constable Chandrashekar and police Constable Mallappa have filed complaints with the High Grounds traffic police stating that the batteries of traffic signals at Treelitee junction on Race Course Road and Shivananda circle were stolen.

A senior police officer said, "These are old batteries and would not fetch the thieves much money. They might sell it for a few hundred rupees. There is a lot of civic work going on in our area and one of the signals at Treelitee junction was not in use for a few months until the work was completed."

He said that recently when they checked the signals to restart them, they realised that the batteries were missing and filed a complaint with the High Grounds law and order police. "This might have been stolen last year but we learnt about it now. Following this incident, another traffic signal at Shivananda circle stopped working last Sunday. The traffic cops deployed at the junction alerted the traffic management center to check the traffic signal when we found out that the batteries of this signal too were stolen by someone the night before. We filed the complaint with the police on January 9."

He added that half of the police personnel are on ground for curfew duty and the remaining half are infected with covid and are still in quarantine period. "Though the beat police are on duty and monitoring the entire area, some thieves managed to steal the batteries. Both batteries have been replaced and the public have not been affected by it," he said. High Grounds police have registered the two cases and are investigating.

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Palike yet to hit 100% first vax dose coverage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

achieve 100% plus targets in all the districts, excluding the BBMP. The Palike which covers eight zones — Mahadevpura, East, Dasarahalli, South, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Yelahanka, Bommanahalli and West zone, comes under the ambit of Bengaluru Urban district. For vaccination coverage, however, the government divided the urban district further into BBMP and Bengaluru Urban.

According to the state war room data, on January 15, the first dose coverage in BBMP limits stood at 96.2%. The Palike has the poorest first dose coverage amongst all the districts. The highest coverage has been reported in Bengaluru Urban at 136.5%, followed by Gadag at 109.5%, Bagalkote at 108.7%, Vijayapura at 108.2%, Bidar reporting 108% and similarly other districts achieving 100 plus percentage of coverage. The BBMP has been struggling, setting up more vaccination centres, carrying out door to door drives, manning mega vaccinations sites and more; however the coverage is yet to touch 100%.

Although data from the state war room showed 96.2% first dose coverage, Dr Thrilok Chandra, BBMP special commissioner (health), pointed out that the city has reached 98% coverage of the first dose and the civic body shall cover the entire population at the earliest.

"We have touched 98% first doses. We are going door to door and facilitating vaccination for those who were left out. We are even reaching out to people who haven't been vaccinated yet. We have also increased the daily vaccination numbers, which is highest amongst all the districts," the doctor explained.

A health officer said: "There is still hesitancy amongst people for vaccination. Now with the emergence of the Omicron variant and seeing an increase in cases, many are coming forward on their own to get vaccinated. People are understanding that those who were vaccinated with two doses have had a lower rate of infection during the third wave and have been coming forward of late to get vaccinated." Going by the data from the last 10 days of the vaccinations in BBMP limits, the daily vaccinations have come down. For instance, on January 5, BBMP carried out 82,003 vaccinations in a single day. The numbers dropped to 74,394 on January 6 and 87,315 on January 7.

As on January 8, a huge drop was reported with just 21,910 vaccinations carried out; the numbers picked up again the next day with 65,773 jabs. Between January 11 and 14, a drop was reported where vaccinations were carried out between 30,000 and 50,000. Even for the second dose coverage, the percentage covered by the BBMP stood low, at 78.8%.

Districts like Vijayapura, Kodagu, Bagalkote, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Dharwad, Davengere and Kolar have achieved 80% plus coverage. "The idea is to reach the target of both first and second doses at the earliest. We are even reaching out to the outer areas in the zones so that nobody is missed," added Dr Thrilok.

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Big cats on prowl in Jayamangali blackbuck reserve

Locals record several leopard sightings, say Blackbuck herds may be under threat

A leopard was caught on camera in Jayamangali Blackbuck Reserve

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There are big cats on the prowl in Jayamangali Blackbuck Reserve. Increase in leopard activities in the reserve has put everybody around on the edge.

Recently a local named Naveen Kumar, a local found two leopard and cub movements and captured them on video. He also informed the forest department officials. He later found four leopards that included two cubs. He also saw a leopard while returning to his farmhouse from Kodigenahalli.

He observed that these leopards are threatening the very existence of blackbucks. He observed earlier these blackbucks used to be in larger herds. But now the herds have become lean. He suspects these leopards may be killing the blackbucks.

Maidenahalli in the Tumakuru district is blessed with the Blackbucks which are rarely found in this area. The government identified the area of Blackbucks and reserved the area for them.

But in recent days, the Blackbuck population is reducing. This may be due to the growing leopard number killing the blackbucks, some say.

But a local said, "Last year the leopards were found when there was welding work in a farmhouse attached to the Jayamangali Blackbuck Reserve. But no one including forest department officials woul dbelieve it. As the area is known for dry land farming, there is nobody on the farms at night. But there are incidents of sheep being killed in Hosahalli village near Maidenahalli. Dogs also go missing in this area."

Environmentalist BV Gundappa says they have information about leopards that are found in this area. "Leopards are common in this area. As they are not threatening to human lives, we can let them live. But the people who come outside at night must be careful." He said that not only in Maidenahalli, there is an increase in leopard movements in Siddara Betta and Devarayanadurga areas also as more leopard movements were recorded there too. "But they are not threatening human lives yet," he said.

This area is a grassland which was developed unscientifically by planting Eucalyptus and Lantana, he said. "All this created a bushy landscape. We have to uproot Eucalyptus trees and clear the Lantana to protect Blackbucks. This place is not the habitat of leopards. The bushy area and availability of Blackbucks made them dwell in the area. If we clear the place, they may travel to a deep forest," he said.

HEALTH TIP: Black gram or urad dal holds a high protein value than most of the legumes.

The anti-inflammatory effects properties of chikoo are beneficial for problems like gastritis and bowel disorders

BangaloreMirror | 7
Monday, January 17, 2022
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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 21-year-old woman. I recently had sex with my brother who is 19 years old. I love having sex with him. It gives a lot of pleasure but I am afraid of the consequences. We haven't discussed this with anyone in the family as the consequences could be dire. What I should do?
Please find another partner. It will avoid problems in his and your future relationships.

2 My girlfriend and I have been having unprotected sex for a while and there have not been any accidents. I always ensure that I pull out before I climax. Could there be a risk of pregnancy even if I don't climax?
There is a difference between climax which is reached at satisfaction by both males and females and unprotected sex. Also, there is a chance since control is not always possible and there are numerous reports of such 'accidents' occurring during the act. Despite easy access to contraceptives, the most common mistake is the one made by you.

3 I'm a 21-year-old and my girlfriend is 20. We had unprotected sex on the fourth day of her period. The periods ended on her fifth day. Now, five days after we have had sex, she feels like vomiting. Is it possible she is pregnant?
The fifth day is close to her day of ovulation so pregnancy is possible. Visit a gynaecologist to investigate the matter and take further action.

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Healthy eating myths BUSTED

Think you know all there is to know about a good diet? Just read on...

There are some commonly held beliefs about a good diet, the origins of which may be sketchy. Nutritionist Tracey Raye examines some commonly held beliefs to separate fact from fiction

Eating well is pricey
The line-up of superfoods, supplements and powders on shop shelves makes people think healthy eating is expensive.

But by following simple principles, such as sticking to seasonal and frozen produce, buying generic brands, meal planning and bulking out dishes with plant protein, you can easily create delicious meals for less.

Never have dessert
Restricting all treats from your diet can make it really challenging to maintain a healthy routine in the long run. And a well-nourished body will generally handle the occasional treat just fine.

Some may opt for a small treat every day, others might choose a particular day, perhaps enjoying their favourite dessert every Saturday.

The key is to manage your frequency and portion size.

Also, try to find healthier options made with dark chocolate, or use yogurt instead of cream.

And always take the time to enjoy every bite rather than eating mindlessly.

Vegans are the healthiest people
There are many benefits to a vegan diet, such as a higher consumption of fruits, vegetables and legumes.

However, a vegan diet doesn't automatically translate to a healthy one. From a nutrition perspective, the benefits really come down to the increased focus on plant foods. But it depends what you replace the meat in your diet with. Many meat substitutes are highly processed or contain lots of salt or fat, so if you go vegan, aim to cook from scratch using lentils, beans and pulses instead.

You can exercise away a poor diet
Exercise offers a variety of benefits, but it won't lead to sustained wellbeing or weight loss by itself. In fact, you can exercise all day long and still feel tired and overweight.

While a healthy attitude to exercise can be very helpful when trying to lose the pounds and boost energy, your body requires proper nutrition from protein, healthy fats and other nutrients in order to replenish your body after a workout.

Without this, you may struggle to maintain a routine and end up snacking on junk food even more to fill up after a workout.

Bread is bad
Bread gets a bad rap when it comes to nutrition, however it's very possible to enjoy it as part of a healthy diet. As ever it's about making wise choices. Highly processed varieties tend to be easier to overindulge in as they're less satisfying, often leaving us feeling tired and sluggish after a few slices.

However, choosing minimally processed varieties, such as sourdough, pitta or soda bread, is a great way of enjoying bread while maximising nutrient load, leaving you feeling fuller for longer.

Raw fruit and veg is better than cooked
The truth is, while cooking can decrease certain nutrients, it actually increases others.

Cooking tomato, for example, boosts its level of the antioxidant lycopene, while nutrients such as iron, magnesium and calcium found in spinach are more easily absorbed when cooked.

For those with digestive issues especially, cooking your fruit and vegetables can make it easier for the body to break them down and extract the nutrition. With that said, certain produce like broccoli and garlic, may offer more benefits when raw, so the ideal approach is a mix of both - and not to overcook, which will make you lose some of the plus points and, more importantly, the flavour and texture.

Processed food is unhealthy
We tend to hear a lot about the downsides of processing but there are two categories of foods that fall under this umbrella: processed and ultra-processed. Ultra-processed foods, such as packaged cakes, biscuits and crisps, tend to be high in sugar, salt and fat, while being devoid of nutrients.

Other methods of processing can offer much-needed convenience with minimal impact on nutrition. For example, if time is a factor holding you back from eating more healthily, there's nothing wrong with leaning on items such as precooked rice and beans, dips like houmous and salsa or frozen veg that can support you getting a nutritious meal on the table quickly.

Eating at night causes weight gain
Physiologically speaking, calories don't count more when consumed at night - overeating can lead to weight gain regardless of timing.

What studies do suggest is that we tend to consume more calories and make poorer food choices when eating late at night versus during the day.

Research is ongoing, but most experts agree it's worth leaving a two- or three-hour gap between your last meal and bedtime to give your digestive system time to process food and ensure a better night's sleep.

All calories are the same
While it's true that all calories have the same amount of energy, the idea that they're all the same is incredibly misleading. Different calorie sources can have significantly different effects on things like energy output, hormones and even brain function.

Protein takes more energy to break down than carbs and fat, but is also more satiating, while ultra-processed foods take less energy to be broken down than wholefoods, which also offer fibre, vitamins and other nutrients that the body requires for good health.

It's why you'll hear the phrase "empty calories" about junk food and alcohol. A pint of beer, for example, has the same calories as a 100g sirloin steak but none of the nutrients.

So remember, it isn't just calories you should be looking at if you're trying to curb hunger pangs. **— Daily Mirror**

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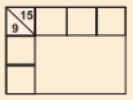
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

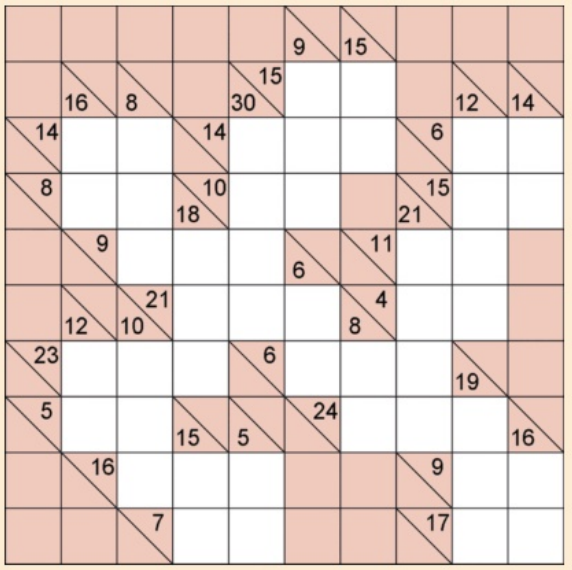
$x^2=\sqrt{[256]}*2+17$
$x = ?$

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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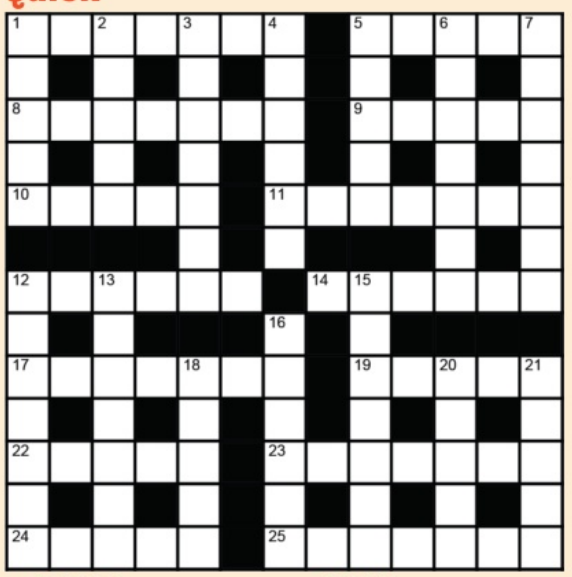


ACROSS

1 An ancient city of Palestine north of the Dead Sea (7)
5 ___ firma : good old earth? (5)
8 Erupting mountain (7)
9 Advocated (5)
10 Bollywood's Mrs. Khote (5)
11 Delegated task to a person? (7)
12 Irish pub at Sankey road (6)
14 Settle in military barracks (6)
17 Degeneration or deterioration (7)
19 Suspicious or watchful (5)
22 Lift with effort (5)
23 Tornado (7)
24 States (5)
25 Hot condiment (7)

DOWN

1 Bollywood lyricist ___ Akhtar (5)
2 Monarch (5)
3 Indian flat bread (7)
4 Egg-shaped bodies (6)
5 Heavy blow (5)
6 Boat races (7)
7 Totalled (5,2)
12 Pre Euro Greek money (7)
13 Continuous fire (7)
15 Nothingness (7)
16 Sacredly obscure or secret (6)
18 Keep pushing (5)
20 Pop star ___ John (5)
21 SA peninsula separating Spencer Gulf from Gulf St Vincent (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS G

O DOC SOC PXOCT OCNXVYCH ULSUMX O PFSSUPPYEC EB EATYCOAN TONP.

Linemaro

Wow, your smile really lights up the place

Mindchow

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored

Joke of the day

Keep the dream alive: Hit the snooze button

Loop

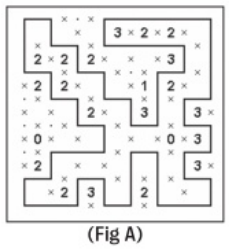
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

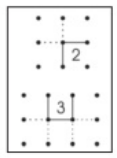
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

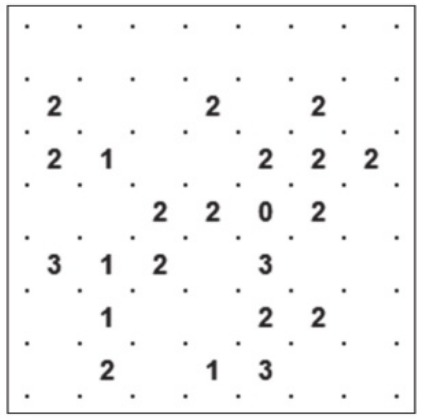
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



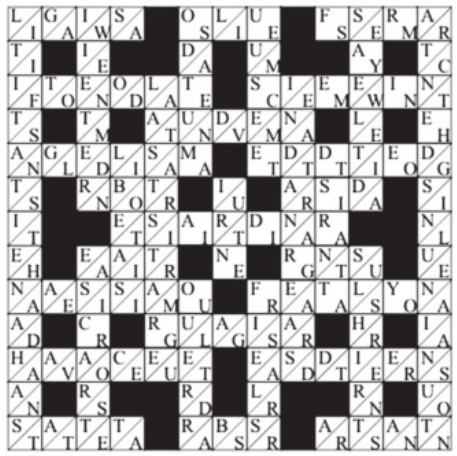
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



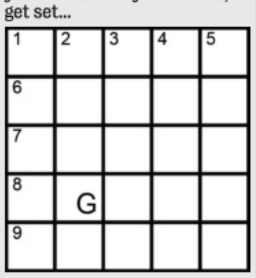
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Crags; 6 Omaha; 7 Err do; 8 Tange; 9 To Hot

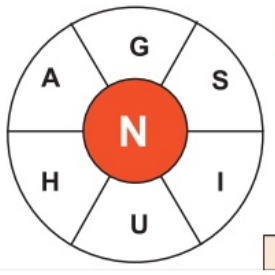
DOWN

1 Oaths; 2 Go car; 3 Do roe; 4 Meant; 5 R ghat

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last star?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			8		6			
	4	6	2		5	3	8	
3								7
	7			9			5	
5		3	4		8	2		9
	6			2			3	
7								4
	9	5	7		2	6	1	
			1		9			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
3 6 6 6

Medium = 6
2 3 6 6

Hard = 10
2 3 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

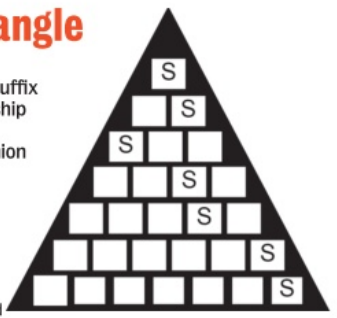
Differences: 1. Club is shorter. 2. Glove is missing. 3. Arrow is reversed. 4. Sand trap is moved. 5. Eye is different. 6. Cloud is different.

Riddler

Here are two well-known expressions rewritten into "Cliff-ese". For those of you who don't know what that means, he was a very wordy person on the TV show "Cheers" and never used a small word where a larger one would work. Try to figure out the phrases in simpler terms. 1. Projecting short, loud, canine-like noises erroneously toward the top of an incorrect arboreal plant. 2. To subject a slender illumination device to rapid carbonization on its antipodal points.

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Plural indicating suffix
3 Pronoun for any ship
4 Nylons
5 Cowboy's companion
6 Remaining ones
7 Female parents



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

©2021 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & Piraro 11-13-21
Less than two weeks ago, he was delivering treats around the world.
THE LATE GREAT PUMPKIN
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

OK, SURLI, WE'VE GOOGLED ALL MY SYMPTOMS AGAIN
WHAT DOES IT SAY I HAVE NOW?
IT'S HARD TO READ
WHY?
I KEEP GETTING POP-UP ADS FOR CASKETS
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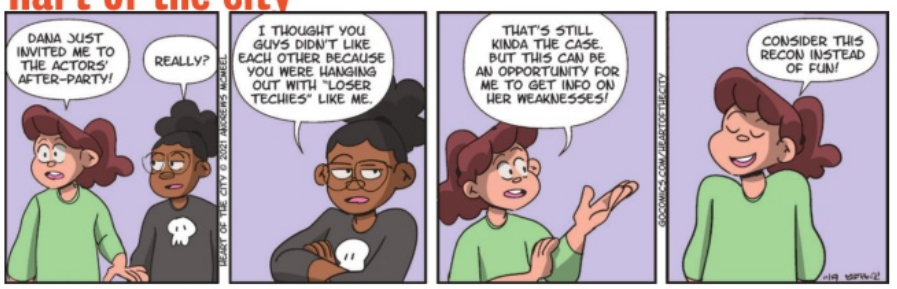
Hart of the city


DANA JUST INVITED ME TO THE ACTORS' AFTER-PARTY!
REALLY?
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS DIDN'T LIKE EACH OTHER BECAUSE YOU WERE HANGING OUT WITH "LOSER TECHIES" LIKE ME.
THAT'S STILL KINDA THE CASE. BUT THIS CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GET INFO ON HER WEAKNESSES!
CONSIDER THIS RECON INSTEAD OF FUN!

Crankshaft

DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING BACK FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY ABOUT THE TREE FIRE?
YEAH... THEY SAID THEY CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY HAD THE GALL TO FILE THAT CLAIM.
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE STILL PROCESSING IT.
BATIUK & DAVIS
11-2

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your energy level will be high. It will make you happy and optimistic to fulfil your desires with the help of hard work. You will plan to go for outings with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will get good news in terms of studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today until late afternoon will not be good; you may feel unhappy and become nervous, but afternoon onwards, you will be happier, internal vitality will boost your self-confidence; you should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession and studies. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues with the spouse, you need to keep patience to avoid converting happy moments into bad moments. Lovebirds will plan for short trips.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your tendency to overspending will affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself on the work and domestic front also. You should avoid lending money; you should postpone making important decisions in real estates and other assets. You should try to avoid a tendency of elevation from your responsibilities.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in business, which may increase its liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. Lovebirds may take a decision to marry. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be very happy, your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to have some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and lovebirds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you will be blessed by the moon which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed works. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finance.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull; you may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments into the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains are likely to convert into losses.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas on the work front. New partnerships may come your way. You may be busy in your work; it may make you mentally tired. It may affect your domestic life.

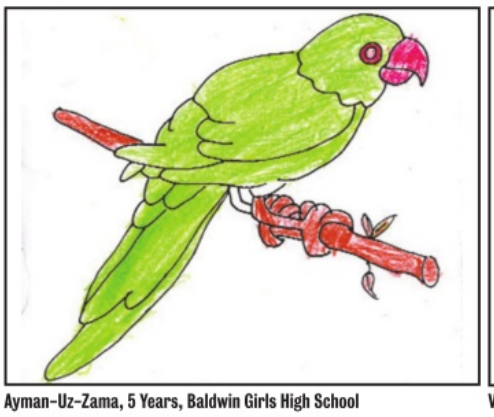
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you will perform well in your job; you colleagues may cooperate. Your performance in the job may be good; you may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Jobseekers may get a new job. There will be positive news for the natives, affected by old health issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, situation will now be okay; people around you may now respond but you are advised not to consider life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties in easy gains. Blessings from elders may help you to come out from this situation. Your confusions in choosing targets may now be finished.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, tasks become incomplete; you may be victim of mood swings; your patience may be tested many times; silly mistakes may confuse you while finishing your work. Lovebirds find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. Greater expectations may affect your emotional attachment with the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be glad; you will be able to maintain a balance between your earning and expenditure which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit elders or a religious place.

KIDZONE



Ayman-Uz-Zama, 5 Years, Baldwin Girls High School

V M Armaan, 6 Years, Little Springs School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$x^2=16^2+17$
$x^2=32^2+17$
$x^2=49$
$x=\pm\sqrt{49}$
$x=\pm7$

QUOTE UNCODE
A man can stand anything except a succession of ordinary days.

STRIKE OUT

L	A	W	S		O	L	E		S	E	R	P	E	N
I		D		M			Y		C					
F	O	N	D	L	E		C	E	M	E	N	T		
I		D		C			R		L					
T		T	A	U	D	E	N	L	E					
A	G	E	I	S	M		E	D	D	I	E	D		
T		R	O	T		U		A	I	D		I		
T		T	S	A	R	I	N	A				N		
E		E	A	T		E	G	N	U			U		
N	A	S	S	A	U		R	E	A	S	O	N		
D		C		G	L	A	I	R		H		I		
A	V	O	C	E	T		A	S	T	E	R	S		
H	E	A	V	E		T	W	I	S	T	E	R		
M		G		S		I		T		O		K		
A	V	E	R	S		C	A	Y	E	N	N	E		

QUICK

J	E	R	I	C	H	O		T	E	R	R	A		
A		U		H		V		H		E		D		
V	O	L	C	A	N	O		U	R	G	E	D		
E		E		P		I		M		A		E		
D	U	R	G	A		D	E	P	U	T	E	D		
D	U	B	L	I	N		E	N	C	A	M	P		
R		A		M		U								
A	T	R	O	P	H	Y		L	E	E	R	Y		
C		R		S		L		L		O				
H	E	A	V	E		T	W	I	S	T	E	R		
M		G		S		I		T		O		K		
A	V	E	R	S		C	A	Y	E	N	N	E		

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	A	G
H	A	O	M	A
O	R	D	E	R
A	G	E	N	T
T	O	O	T	H

BULL'S EYE
ANGUISH, anus, gain, gnash, gnus, hang, hung, nigh, sang, shin, shun, sigh, sing, snag, snug, suing, sung, using

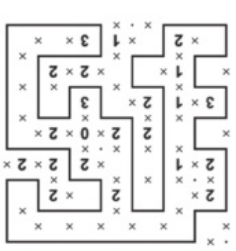
SUDOKU

6	3	4	1	8	9	7	2	5
8	9	5	7	4	2	6	1	3
7	2	1	6	5	3	8	9	4
4	6	9	5	2	7	1	3	8
5	1	3	4	6	8	2	7	9
2	7	8	3	9	1	4	5	6
3	8	2	9	1	4	5	6	7
9	4	6	2	7	5	3	8	1
1	5	7	8	3	6	9	4	2

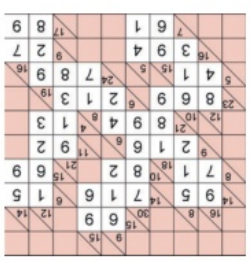
ALPHA TRIANGLE
5, Es, She, Horse, Hose, Others, Mothers.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 6 + 6 − 3 = 15
Medium
6 + 3 − 6 x 2 = 6
Hard
3 + 2 x 3 − 5 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO



MENSA PUZZLE
5. In each star, the central number equals the difference between the sum of the even numbers and the sum of the odd numbers from the points of the star.

RIDDLER
1. Barking up the wrong tree.
2. Burn the candles at both ends.

Volume No 15, Issue No 149 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Lata Mangeshkar in ICU, but stable
Lata Mangeshkar's spokesperson said the singer is stable. "Continues to be in ICU under treatment of able doctors," she said.

INTERVIEW | SHABANA AZMI

'Kaifi and Shaukat's comradeship made me realise what love is'

Shabana Azmi on her dear father and great poet, thinker Kaifi Azmi

They say a father is a girl's first hero, that larger-than-life character, who is her window to the world outside and the world within. Very early, Shabana Azmi too learnt to view the world through her poet father's lens. In conversation with ETimes, Shabana Azmi reminisces about dear father Kaifi Azmi, who spent his last years serving his beloved village Mijwan but carried the world within him... **Excerpts:**

When did you first realise that your father, Kaifi Azmi, was a special man?
Abba was always different, a fact that didn't sit too easily on my young shoulders. He didn't go to 'office' or wear the normal trousers and shirt like other 'respectable' fathers. He chose to wear a white cotton kurta-pyjama 24 hours of the day. He did not speak English and worse still, I didn't call him 'Daddy' like other children, but some strange sounding 'Abba'! I learned to avoid referring to him in front of my school friends. I lied that he did some vague 'business'! What on earth did a 'poet' mean – a euphemism for someone who did no work? With time, it was no longer possible to keep Abba in the closet. He had started writing lyrics for films. One day a friend of mine said that her father had read my father's name in the newspaper. That did it. I owned him up at once. Of all the 40 children in my class, only my father's name had appeared in the newspaper. I perceived his being 'different; as a virtue for the first time.

Read the interview in full by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Kaifi Azmi was an eternal romantic. What aspect of his relationship with Shaukat made you believe in love?
My mother was an incurable romanticist and full of tales of how Kaifi wooed her with his dreamy looks and beautiful poetry. But it was their strong comradeship in the later years that made me realise that love is what remains when the first flush of romance fades. I don't believe I'm a romantic. But I am deeply in love with Javed (Akhtar) even 37 years after we got married.

His poetry was also fired by social angst. Did Kaifi's humanism keep him in sync with ground realities?
Kaifi was a rare poet, who practised what he preached. He worked in the trenches with shoe factory workers in his early days in Kanpur – an experience he used to great effect in MS Sathyu's 'Garm Hava' (released in 1973, it won Kaifi the Filmfare Award and the National Award for Best Story). He made the character of Salim Mirza, played by Balraj Sahni, a shoe factory owner, who falls into dire straits because of the aftermath of the Partition in 1947. Kaifi used to lie around on a charpoy in Madanpura in Mumbai, whilst working with the Mazdoor Kisan unions. What he observed first-hand became the basis of his famous nazm 'Makaan'. It was about injustice meted out to the construction worker.

— Farhana Farook, ETimes

No mood for politics

Telugu Mega Star Chiranjeevi who had a not-so successful career in politics has said that he has no plans to return to politics. He recently clarified that he is staying away from politics.

He termed as speculative some media reports that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy offered him a Rajya Sabha seat. Chiranjeevi had recently met AP CM to discuss the controversy over the pricing of cinema tickets, but denied that he was offered a Rajya Sabha seat. Chiranjeevi who was a reigning king at Telugu box office had politics in 2009 in the undivided Andhra Pradesh by floating Praja Rajyam Party (PRP). However, his party could win just 18 seats in the 294-member Assembly. In fact, Chiranjeevi who had contested from constituencies had to taste defeat in one of them. He later merged PRP with the Congress. In 2012, he was elected to Rajya Sabha and was made a Minister of State for Tourism in the then Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. However, the political career of Chiru got a big blow when Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated. Bifurcation weakened the Congress in AP and Chiranjeevi gradually stayed away from politics. He then focussed on films again.

What's cooking
The extended Chiranjeevi family entire family gathered to celebrate Sankranti, complete with the traditional bonfire on Friday. After festive banter, it was time for the batter, as Chiranjeevi and his nephew Varun Tej tried their hand at making dosas for the family. While Varun's dosa turned out well, Chiranjeevi ended up making a mess of his dosa on the frying pan! A video of the gathering went viral on social media. When a voice from outside the camera frame queried Varun if it was the batter or the batter that was responsible, Chiranjeevi interposed with, "There's love going into it!" In the same breath, the megastar of Tollywood crashed his spatula onto Varun's dosa still cooking on the pan, and mashed it. "It's upma now!" Chiranjeevi declared gleefully in the video. "His dosa came out well but mine didn't. I got jealous," he claimed as everyone laughed.

—BMB & Agencies

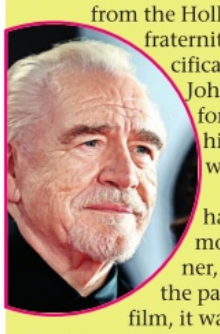
Sultry Jacky
Nine times Jacqueline Fernandez raised the mercury on Insta with jaw-dropping pictures

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

'Succession' star Brian Cox calls Johnny Depp 'overrated' actor

Primetime Emmy award-winning actor Brian Cox called out several celebrities who have rubbed him the wrong way, including 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star Johnny Depp.

As per Page Six, in his new memoir 'Putting the Rabbit in the Hat'- Scottish actor Brian Cox had called out many actors from the Hollywood film fraternity and specifically actor Johnny Depp for rubbing him the wrong way.



"It would have been a money-spinner, but of all the parts in that film, it was the most thankless," Cox, wrote of turning down the part of the Governor in the 'Pirates' franchise. He continued "Another thing with 'Pirates of the Caribbean' is that it's very much the 'Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow' show, and Depp, personable though I'm sure he is, is so overblown, so overrated." The actor writes, "Edward Scissorhands. Let's face it, if you come on with hands like that and pale, scarred-face make-up, you don't have to do anything. And he didn't. And subsequently, he's done even less."

To Cap'n Kohli. From wife, with love

Actor remembers hubby's trajectory, says this is who you are: Unconventional and straightforward

After Virat Kohli stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian cricket team, wife Anushka Sharma has shared a long note for her husband.

Sharing pictures of Virat and her, she wrote. "I remember the day in 2014 when you told me that you have been made the captain as MS had decided to retire from test cricket. I remember MS, you & I having a chat later that day & him joking about how quickly your beard will start turning grey. We all had a good laugh about it. Since that day, I've seen more than just your beard turning grey. I've seen growth. Immense growth. Around you & within you. And yes, I am very proud of your growth as the captain of the Indian National Cricket team & what achievements the team had under your leadership. But I'm more proud of the growth you achieved within you."

Recalling Virat's early days in cricket, she further wrote, "In 2014 we were so young & naive. Thinking that just good intentions, positive drive & motives can take you ahead in life. They definitely do but, not without challenges. A lot of these challenges that you faced were not always on the field. But then, this is life right? It tests you in places where you least expect it to but where you need it the most. And my love, I am so proud of you for not letting anything come in the way of your good intentions. You led by example & gave winning on field every ounce of your energy to the extent that after some losses I've sat next to you with tears in your eyes, while you wondered if there's still something more you could have done. This is who you are & this is what you expected from everyone. You've been unconventional & straightforward..."